

UTAH FISHING: WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES • SUMMER 2003

fishing

SPECIAL ISSUE OF WILDLIFE REVIEW MAGAZINE

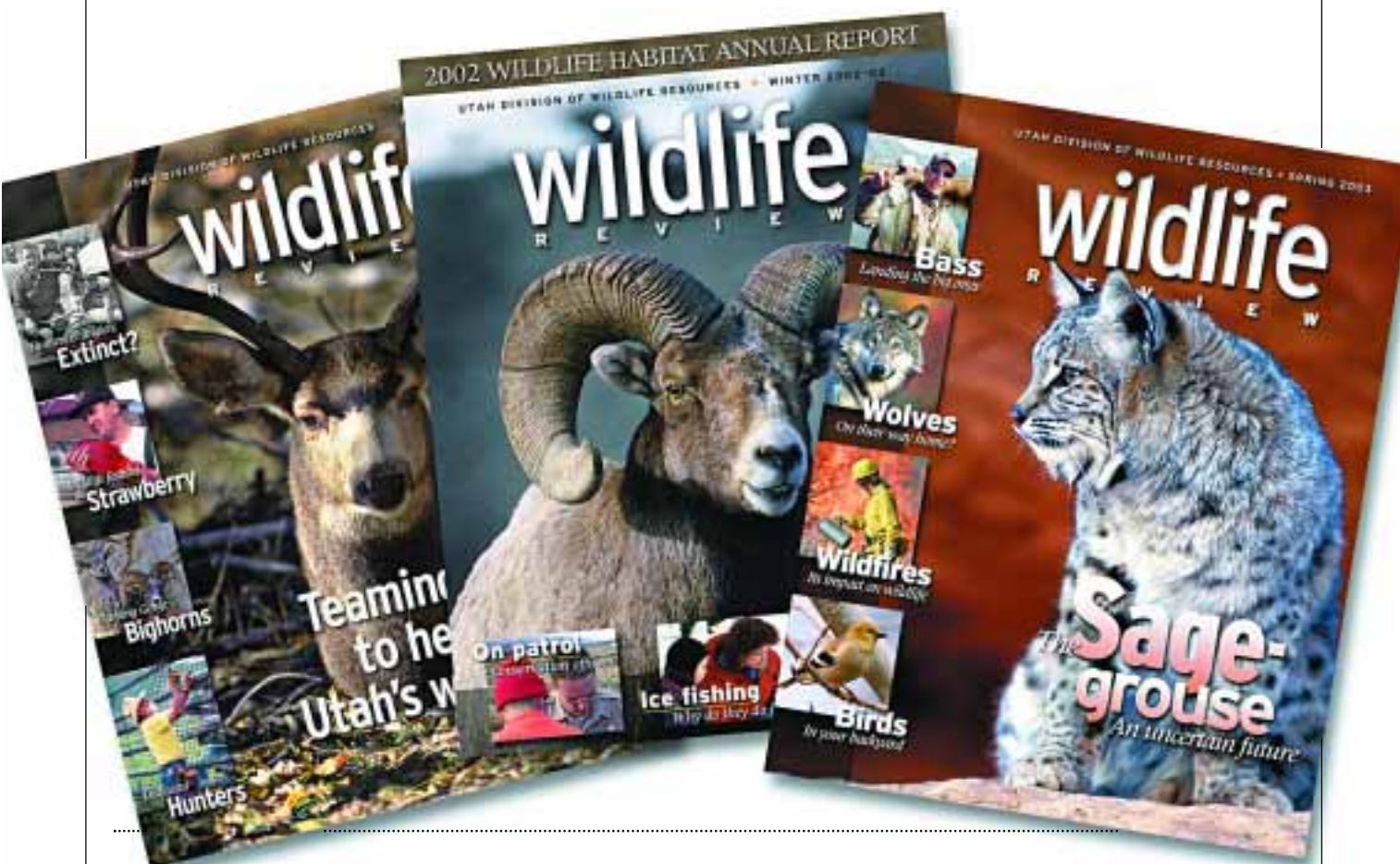


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Utah Wildlife Review, Vol. XIV, Issue 2. The Wildlife Review is published quarterly by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Comments and letters are welcome and should be addressed to Editor, Wildlife Resources, P.O. Box 146301, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301.

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Published & printed in the USA.

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Large photo at right: Duck Fork Reservoir



FISHING

Wildlife Review

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Summer, 2003

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DIRECTOR'S message

KEVIN CONWAY
Director,
Utah Division of
Wildlife Resources

THANK YOU for picking up this special fishing edition of the Wildlife Review. I hope you enjoy it. The sport of fishing in Utah has seen many changes in recent years aimed at providing greater and more diverse recreational fishing opportunities for the hundreds of thousands of anglers in our state.

Our new and rapidly growing Community Fishing Program is providing quality fishing opportunities for thousands of urban youth along the Wasatch Front. These youngsters, many

of whom are growing up in single-parent households, are getting an opportunity to go fishing for the first time in their lives. It's especially important to expose these youngsters to fishing while they're young, since they represent the future of sport fishing in Utah.


The Community Fishing Program is not limited just to urban areas along the Wasatch Front. In smaller towns like Brigham City, Price, Cedar City and St. George, we're working with local governments and other partners to develop quality fishing opportunities.

Another Division of Wildlife Resources program, Aquatic Education, goes hand-in-hand with community fisheries. Teaching kids about our aquatic

resources and the importance of cool, clean water for wildlife and humans is vitally important. Part of the program includes fishing classes, which help pass along the legacy of sport fishing to a new generation. Fishing offers today's youth an enjoyable and healthy alternative to television, video arcades, malls and the dangers of drugs and street gangs. Best of all, it's just plain fun.

To implement these two programs, we're recruiting and training hundreds of volunteer fishing instructors who share their knowledge and skills with kids. My hat goes off to these dedicated men and women.

I am excited about these programs and the promise they bring to a new generation of Utah youngsters. I encourage you and your family to take advantage of the many emerging urban fishing opportunities along the Wasatch Front and elsewhere in the state. In a world where leisure time is becoming a scarce commodity, fishing opportunities close to home are increasingly valuable.

Of course, all the news hasn't been good in the last couple of years. But in spite of the ongoing drought there's still plenty of good fishing out there. This year, especially, the key will be to get out early, while water conditions are still good. So get out, go fishing, have fun and good luck! 

Kevin K. Conway

BY BRENT STETTLER,
SOUTHEASTERN REGION
CONSERVATION OUTREACH MANAGER

FISHING GEAR basics

A BEGINNER'S fishing outfit can be purchased at any department or sporting goods store. The outfit will consist of a fishing rod and reel. Some reels will come with a spool of monofilament line. With others, you will have to purchase the line separately. Besides the rod and reel, all that's needed to start fishing are a few hooks and worms.

So how do you attach a hook to the line? Hooks have an "eye" at one end through which the fishing line passes. Lots of beginners tie a couple of overhand knots, but monofilament line can cut into itself and break if the line is not tied properly. Overhand knots are fine when you're catching small fish, but if you hook a big one, your line will probably break at the knot.

Knots

Once an angler advances a bit in knowledge, he or she may want to try one or more of the common "fishermen's" knots. These knots have been tried and proven and have the added benefit of maintaining the tensile strength of the line. A couple of good

knots to know include the "Fisher-man's" knots, illustrated on the next page.

A simple knot that does a great job of attaching your hook to your line is the clinch knot shown on the next page. You want to tie a good knot. There's nothing more frustrating than having a fish on your line and then

having it get away with your hook!

Line

Fishing lines are sold in a variety of strengths, called "pound test." Most beginner fishing outfits should be equipped with about 8-pound test line, which implies that the line would break with 8 pounds of pressure; in reality, most lines have a breaking strength above that stated on the label. If you are fishing where there is heavy cover such as weeds or brush, you may want to increase the strength of your line. The downside is that the heavier the test, the thicker the line. Thick lines are more visible to fish and, when cast, the lines roll out in a series of loops across the water. Thick lines don't cast as far and may scare fish.

It's a good idea (but not necessary) to remove the heavy line on a reel and replace it with a much thinner line, such as a 2- to 6-pound test. This will facilitate longer casts. Any trail of loops over the water will be virtually invisible. This is important because if fish see your line, they often will refuse your bait.

Another thing to consider is the storage and transportation of a rod and reel. If you wish to transport the outfit with a hook on the line, secure the hook to the rod so you won't be



snagging everything on your way to your fishing hole. Avoid attaching the hook through the eye of a guide because the hook can nick the eye, and cut the line when you're casting or trying to land a fish. Place the hook on the guide's foot, if the rod doesn't have a hook keeper.

Sometimes you'll transport more than one rod at a time. In this case, it's important to keep the lines and hooks of each rod from tangling. You can keep the rods separate in your car, or keep them in tubes or rod holders. It's best not to transport the rods in the passenger compartment of your vehicle, where kids can bump the rods and hook the car seats, upholstery—or themselves. Also, while fishing, it is not a good idea to lay the reel on the beach because dirt can make the reel inoperable.

Once your fishing trip is over, store the rod where the reel and line can dry out. It's a good idea to clean and oil the reel's moving parts periodically, to keep everything in working order. Many experienced anglers change the line every year—or more often. Over time, monofilament lines become brittle and develop a "memory" or coil for the spool.

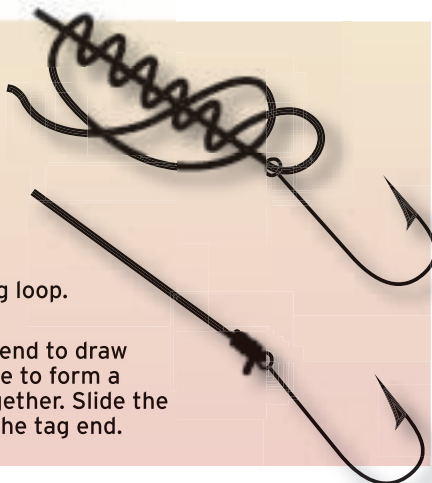
Angler's check list

- Sense of humor
- Endless patience
- Ready to "roll with it"
- Fishing equipment
- Fishing poles and reels
- Hooks and weights
- Lures and flies (selection)
(Need to include small lures and flies if fishing for bluegill or perch)
- Spoons
- Spinners
- Jigs
- Plastic bodies
- Net
- Stringer
- Needle nose pliers or forceps to remove hooks
- Extra line
- Bait (selection)
Power bait
Worms
Floating cheese
- Knife for cleaning fish
- Plastic bags and ice to keep fish clean and cool
- Extra Clothes
Pants
Shirts
Underwear
Socks
Shoes
- Blanket(s)—kids get tired and/or they may use the blankets as a place to play
- Food, drinks and snacks—plan for at least one extra meal
- Extra water—to drink and clean with
- Toys and books
- Mosquito repellent
- Sunscreen
- Hats and sunglasses
- Small first aid kit

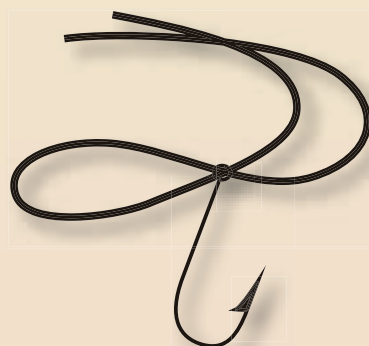
Clinch knot

1. Thread the end of the line through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure. Double back and make five or more turns around the standing line. Bring the end of the line through the first loop formed behind the eye, then through the big loop.

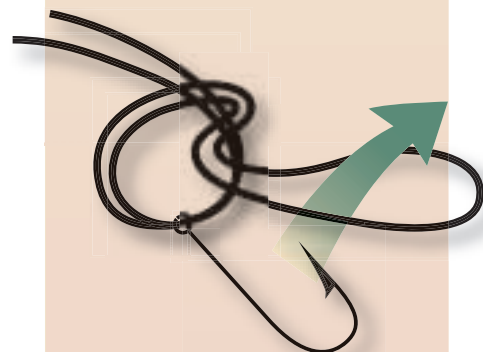
2. Wet the knot and pull on the tag end to draw up the coils. Pull on the standing line to form a knot with the coils pulled neatly together. Slide the knot tight against the eye and clip the tag end.



Palomar knot



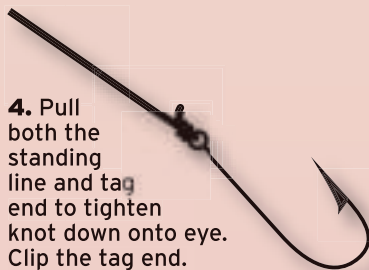
1. Double 4 to 6 inches of line and pass the loop through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure.



2. Tie a loose overhand knot in the doubled line with the hook hanging from bottom



3. Pass the loop of line over the hook, swivel or lure.



4. Pull both the standing line and tag end to tighten knot down onto eye. Clip the tag end.

BY ANDREW CUSHING,
COMMUNITY FISHERIES BIOLOGIST

FISHING WATERS IN YOUR backyard

WHEN UTAH'S Community Fishing program began four years ago, the goal was simple—develop and manage bodies of water close enough to home that a child or youngster could ride his or her bike to them and fish.

Years later, that goal has been realized. The growth of the program, however, has been far greater than expected.

There are 37 active community-fishing waters in Utah, with about two new waters added every year. These waters have become community-fishing waters because interested communities and partners have partnered with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in investing the time and resources needed to provide people of all ages a quality outdoor experience.

The things I saw while being involved in Utah's Community Fishing and related programs in 2002 touched me deeply. Here's a sample of what I experienced:

- Kristy Law, recreation director

for Brigham City, heard about the Youth Fishing program in 2001. She became very enthused and, together with DWR staff, started recruiting volunteer coaches from the surrounding area to help establish a Youth Fishing Club in the city. It wasn't long before they ran into a problem—more kids wanted to join the club than the volunteers could handle!

Kristy approached Brigham City Mayor Lou Ann Christensen about the situation. The mayor sprung into action, rearranging the Brigham City Road Department's work schedule so those in the department who wanted to help could volunteer.

Even with the added volunteers, enrollment had to be capped at 80 children. Another 80 were turned away.

Help for those other 80 kids arrived in 2003, when Brigham City and the DWR dedicated the city's Pioneer Park Pond as a community fishery. Adding this already existing pond to the city's list of community fishing waters will provide those 80

additional kids a place to hold their club.

- The most touching moment of the year happened when the Ogden Senior Citizen Fishing Club traveled to Pioneer Park Pond for an outing. It was a warm spring day and the seniors were really enjoying themselves. Also at the pond was a youth from the Brigham City Youth Fishing Club. He was having a great time catching black bullheads. It didn't take long before Bo, an 85-year-old senior, was next to him, catching fish too.

What made this sight so memorable? A man reaching the end of his time on earth, having the kind of fun that's timeless.

- Carol was another of the senior citizens there that day. Her hands shook so much that it was impossible to tell when she had a fish tugging on her line, but she didn't care. She caught a black bullhead that day. It was the first fish she'd ever caught and she was thrilled!

- Bountiful City partnered with the DWR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve a 50-acre warm water pond in the city. This project has been fun to see develop because the city has been totally involved. Bountiful City Mayor John Cushing has even pulled seines (survey nets) at the pond with DWR staff on several occasions.

Boy Scouts from Bountiful also completed 11 Eagle Scout projects at the pond, donating 300 hours of time towards improving the fishery. Their work will continue this summer.

One day Bountiful City Engineer Mark Franc and I were standing in the parking lot, talking about the success of the project. At that moment a car pulled up. A woman got out, went to the water's edge and set up a lawn chair and a fishing rod. Then she went back to the car, opened the passenger's door, leaned in, helped an elderly man stand up, and walked him to the chair. She returned to the car and retrieved his oxygen canister. Then she told the man she would see him in two hours and drove away.

Mark and I struck up a conversation with the man and discovered that this was the first time he had been fishing in 15 years. He had emphysema and could no longer go to higher elevations to fish.

Right then, I knew what we were doing at Bountiful Pond, and other community fishing waters across Utah, was making a huge impact in the lives of people.

Community involvement is the key

In the past two years, a lot of time and labor has gone into improving habitat in both ponds I've mentioned. For example, Bountiful Pond has turbid water and a hard clay bottom. To help improve habitat, the Boy Scouts of America constructed artificial weed beds using donated pipe and 10,000 feet of rope. Using larger diameter pipe, volunteers also constructed and installed channel catfish spawning tubes. Last fall, we saw the first evidence of channel catfish reproduction in the pond.

Progress made at improving community fisheries

The two northern Kaysville Ponds along I-15 are open after being closed for a year. During that time the ponds were dredged and, even more importantly, were 'sculpted' (shallow water 'shelves' were excavated and planted with bulrushes and sedges to provide young fish cover from predators). (See accompanying story on the next page.)

Two items are essential for success

The success of Utah's Community Fishing program involves two things. A quality fishery is the first. This is achieved by remembering that these community fisheries are going to be heavily fished. At least two community ponds in Utah exceed 1,500 anglers per acre, per month. This makes stocking, habitat improvement and fish population management essential.

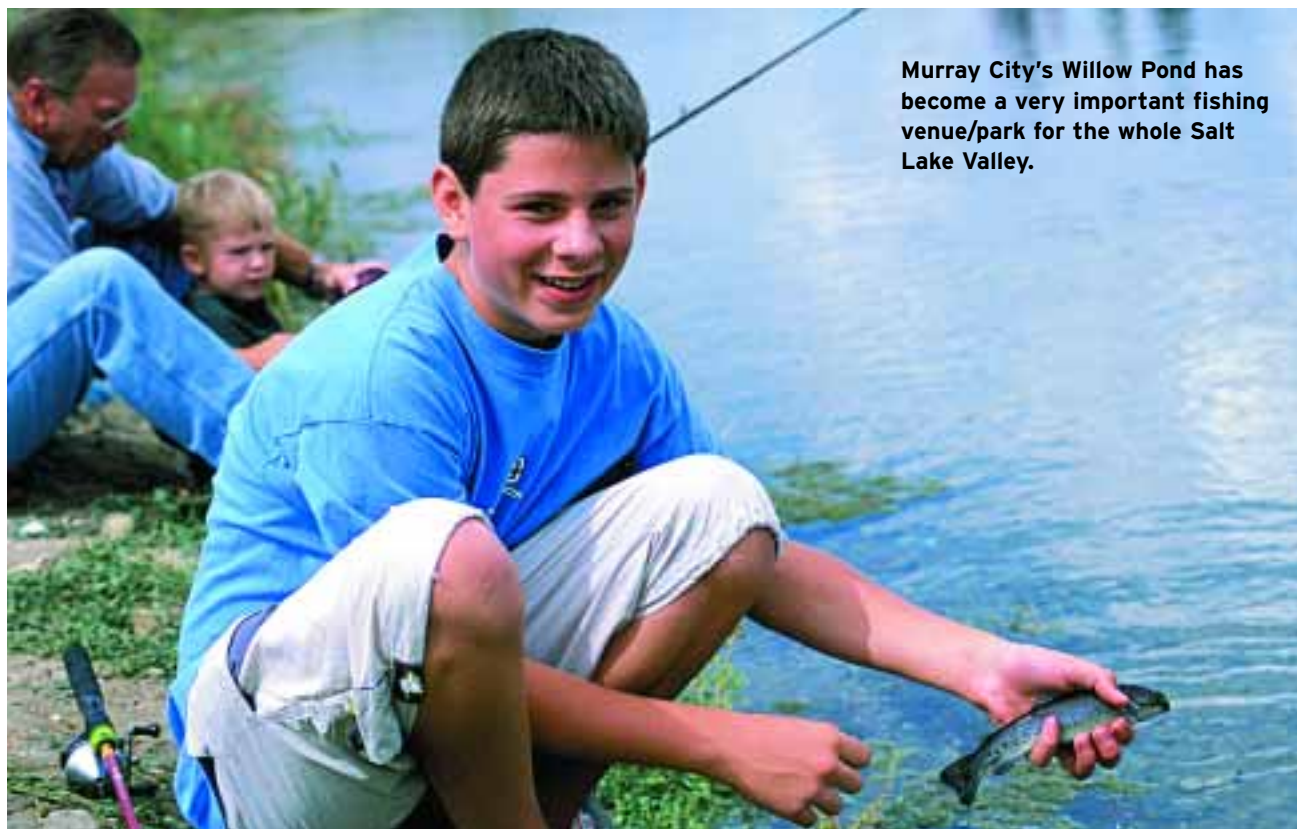
The second and most important aspect of the program is to get communities involved in their fishery. In 2002, 540 kids enrolled in eight-week Youth Fishing Clubs held along the Wasatch Front, and more than 3,500 kids enrolled in one-day fishing programs across Utah. These programs would not have been possible without the help of 100 adult volunteers from local communities.

Learning More About Community Fishing Waters

You can learn where community-fishing waters are in your area by obtaining a copy of the latest "*Community Fishing*" booklet published by the DWR.

The free booklet is available by visiting or calling any Utah Division of Wildlife Resources office. It's also available at Kmart, Wal-Mart and sporting goods stores across the state.

You can also learn about community fishing waters in your area by calling (801) 538-4774. f



Murray City's Willow Pond has become a very important fishing venue/park for the whole Salt Lake Valley.

PHOTO BY TOM PETTENGILL

BY JOHN FAIRCHILD,
HABITAT PROGRAM COORDINATOR

FOR PEOPLE & WILDLIFE

Kaysville Ponds

IN APRIL 1994, Utah State University (USU) became the proud owner of the Kaysville Ponds when they purchased property in Kaysville for their new Utah Botanical Center.

Since the early 1950s, USU had operated a botanical garden in Farmington to test plants for landscaping purposes and to demonstrate various landscaping techniques. The location change was prompted by a highway expansion project, but the need for a conceptual change for the gardens had been in the works for some time. Development of the Utah Botanical Center gave USU the opportunity to move forward with plans to create a multi-faceted facility that would provide educational, recreational and interactive experiences for a wide audience.

For years, the previous owner had permitted public fishing at the ponds and it had become a popular fishing location for Davis County residents. Unfortunately, it had also become a popular place to dump trash of all kinds. In addition, sediment had accumulated in the ponds, further reducing their value as a fishery. One

of USU's first priorities was to clean up the ponds and make them the centerpiece of their project.

USU partnered with the DWR and the Utah Reclamation, Mitigation and Conservation Commission to implement a comprehensive pond and wetland enhancement project. The project involves dredging sediment from three of the four ponds, installing water control structures for improved water level management, creating shallow wetlands around the

periphery of the ponds, constructing a berm (sound barrier) adjacent to I-15, and developing access locations for anglers. USU has initiated a revegetation project on all disturbed areas that involves seeding and transplanting a variety of native grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees.

The Division of Wildlife Resources will manage the ponds as a warmwater fishery (largemouth bass, channel catfish and bluegill) with seasonal stocking of rainbow trout.

Kaysville Ponds and the surrounding wetlands will be the major attraction for people and wildlife within 64 acres of the Utah Botanical Center that have been dedicated as open space. The pond/wetland complex will play an important role in improving urban wildlife habitat, treating adjacent storm water runoff, improving water quality, and providing public recreation opportunities.


Future plans at Kaysville Ponds include a parking lot, rest room facility, trail system, welcome pavilion and interpretive kiosks.

Fishing opportunities will be limited until all the project features are completed. All visitors are encouraged to use established trails to protect revegetated areas.

To reach the ponds, take exit 331 off I-15 onto 200 North, go to Main Street and turn right to 50 West. The ponds are on 50 West, between 550 and 900 South in Kaysville. f



Kaysville Ponds were sculpted to become better habitat.



Strawberry Reservoir is one of the most important fisheries in Utah. That's why steps are being taken now to enhance the long-term outlook of the reservoir.

BY ROGER WILSON,
STRAWBERRY PROJECT LEADER

THE "GOOD OLD DAYS" AT **Strawberry** ARE STILL HERE

STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR is one of the West's leading cutthroat trout fisheries and has long been regarded as Utah's premier cold-water fishery. The reservoir is the top fishing destination in the state, presently sustaining about 13 percent of Utah's total fishing pressure. Strawberry's popularity and notoriety result from its productive nature, which is conducive to growing large rainbow and cutthroat trout quickly.

The reservoir was first impounded during 1912 as part of the Strawberry Valley Irrigation Project. Fish stocking began in 1923 and the reservoir produced a state record cutthroat trout (26 lb. 12 oz.) by as early as 1930. This record still stands today.

As Strawberry developed the reputation for producing large, trophy-sized fish, anglers began using live minnows as bait and by 1945 several non-native fishes became established in the reservoir. Chemical treatment projects were undertaken on two separate occa-

sions to rid the reservoir of these competitive fishes. Although these treatments were very effective, targeted nongame fish species ultimately found their way back into the reservoir.

Over the years, Strawberry has developed a following of anglers that are very dedicated to their sport. Many of these anglers fish exclusively at "The Berry." Discussions of Strawberry's management often invoke strong passions and a wide variety of opinions. Within fishing circles there is often talk of "the good old days" when catch rates were high and fish were very large. Many anglers also reminisce about the days when fish camps were scattered around the shoreline and a tight-knit local angler's culture developed.

The actual history of the Strawberry fishery, however, is one of boom and bust, of peaks and depressions, of highs and lows. Fishing success has fluctuated dramatically over the years in response to angler use and harvest patterns,

water quality problems, habitat degradation in the tributary streams, and most importantly, population fluctuations of introduced nongame fish.

A critical review of historical creel census records at Strawberry indicates that the "good old days" are actually happening right now! The fishing quality experienced in recent years (*i.e.* the late 1990s and early 2000s) is excellent and unsurpassed in Strawberry's long and illustrious history.

For instance, during 2001 Strawberry sustained an estimated 1.4 million hours of angling activity, supported a catch rate of 0.5 fish/hour and sustained an average size of about 16.5 inches for both cutthroat and rainbow trout. Strawberry's fishing opportunities, angling success and average fish size have never been better. During the ostensible "good old days" of the past (1947–1974), fishing pressure was much lower, angler catch rates were consistently below 0.30 fish/hour and the average fish size was closer to 12 inches.

As most anglers are aware, the Utah Wildlife Board adopted new fishing regulations at Strawberry for 2003. These regulations are designed to protect cutthroat trout from over-harvest and promote larger populations of predatory sized cutthroat to prey on expanding Utah chub populations.

These regulations require that anglers release all cutthroat trout between 15 and 22 inches. This regulation will certainly reduce the short-term harvest of cutthroat in this popular water. However, overall catch rates should continue to be good and fair numbers of rainbows and cutthroats should be available for harvest in 2003 and 2004.

In the long-term, this regulation should improve fishing substantially by providing a larger average-size cutthroat. It's possible that the best of the "good old days" at Strawberry are yet to come.

Historical creel census data at Strawberry

Collected from 1947–2001

Year	(fish/hour)	Length Rainbow	Length Cutthroat
1947	0.36	—	—
1948	0.15	13.4"	15.7"
1949	0.44	—	—
1951	0.21	—	—
1955	0.13	—	—
1956	0.19	—	—
1957	0.20	—	—
1958	0.28	—	—
1963	0.32	—	—
1974	0.31	12.5"	13.1"
1981	0.59	—	—
1987	0.58	13.2"	13.2"
1988	0.22	—	—
1991	0.50	12.0"	12.4"
1992	0.21	—	—
1993	0.26	16.4"	17.5"
1994	0.67	13.8"	16.4"
1996	0.43	16.4"	16.6"
1997	0.65	—	—
2001	0.50	16.6"	16.5"

Strawberry Regulations

By Howard Jacquart,
DWR Central Region Lieutenant

Background

To try and control non-game fish populations, Bear Lake cutthroat trout are among the fish stocked in the Strawberry Reservoir. Studies indicated that Bear Lake cutthroat trout are more piscivorous (fish eating) than other species of cutthroats and would help control non-game fish — if allowed to grow large enough. The studies also showed that Bear Lake cutthroat were more competitive with the Utah chub and could provide a reasonable sport fishery, even if chubs returned in some abundance.

When the reservoir reopened for fishing in 1991 after treatment, no special regulations were enacted. However, it soon became clear that regulation was necessary to adequately protect the cutthroats, which are

fairly easy to catch. During 1993, the possession limit was reduced from eight to four fish, only one of which could be a cutthroat trout. This regulation was later modified to a four-fish limit, with only one fish more than 18 inches in possession.

Even with these regulations, cutthroat harvest increased every year, and larger cutthroats began to disappear from the population. Over time, DWR biologists determined that there were not enough larger cutthroat trout surviving in the reservoir to control non-game fish. This led to the new slot limit regulation enacted in 2003 that protects cutthroat trout in the 15- to 22-inch range.

Because of the regulation changes at Strawberry, enforcement and educational efforts have been greatly increased in 2003. The number of officers checking licenses and fish harvested by anglers has been increased. Roadblocks are also planned along with saturation patrols on several weekends this year; the goal of the patrols is to contact every angler on the reservoir. Signs have also been posted around the reservoir, advising anglers of the new regulations.

The DWR's Law Enforcement Section has also initiated a new program. Officers will work closely with the Strawberry Anglers Association and Sportsmen on Patrol to watch tributaries during peak spawning times. Fish spawning in the tributaries are very vulnerable to people with nets and people attempting to snag them. Citizens will watch sections of stream and contact officers if they observe any problems. Problems in the past have

included people fishing in closed tributaries, illegally netting fish and shooting fish.

In 2003, Strawberry anglers may not have more than three cutthroat trout in their possession. Anglers may keep two cutthroat trout less than 15 inches long and one over 22 inches. All cutthroat trout 15 to 22 inches long must be released immediately.

Many of the cutthroat anglers catch at Strawberry this year will be in the 15- to 22-inch range, which means it's vital that anglers know how to release fish properly.

Handling and releasing fish properly

This new regulation means that anglers will have to release a large portion of the fish they catch at Strawberry in 2003. Anglers who fish at Strawberry must know how to properly handle and release fish without harming them.

- One of the best things anglers can do is fish with artificial lures, which makes it easier to successfully release the fish you catch.

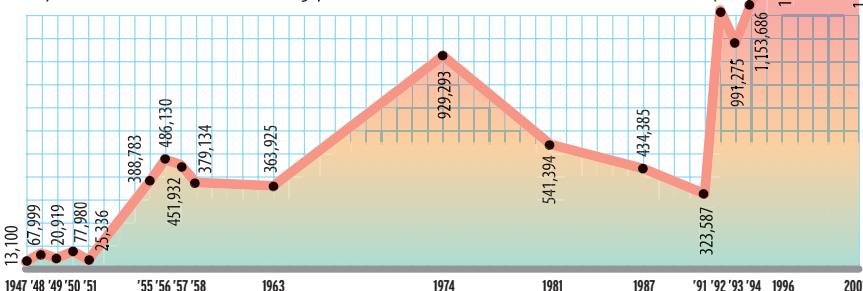
- If you deeply hook a fish using natural bait, you should cut the line without attempting to remove the hook. This action greatly increases the chance that the fish will survive. The acids in the stomach of the fish will dissolve the hook over time.

- Keep fish in the water and handle them as little as possible.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources asks that all Strawberry anglers cooperate with this new regulation, which will help ensure the future of one of Utah's premier fisheries. **f**

Total fishing hours spent at Strawberry

Graphic indicates how fishing pressure has increased since 1947



BY SCOTT ROOT,
CENTRAL REGION
CONSERVATION OUTREACH MANAGER

FISHING FROM the shore

FISHING FROM THE SHORE may look easy, but to be consistently successful actually requires skill and knowledge. The good news is that with a little effort, any angler can obtain the knowledge and skills needed to find success from shore.

Research

Researching factors such as recent angler success, lunar tables, topography of the body of water, insect hatches, recent weather patterns and the date that fish were last stocked are among ways to increase your success. Some of this information is available in the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) weekly fishing report. It's available on the Internet at wildlife.utah.gov or by calling the DWR's toll-free information line at (877) 592-5169.

Marinas, fly fishing shops, sporting good stores, local angling Web sites and other anglers can also provide helpful fishing information. It's amazing how the phase of the moon, weather, time of day and other factors affect fishing success. An

investment of about ten minutes of research can often improve your shore fishing success.

Layout of the land and water

Shore fishing doesn't always mean sitting. Try walking along the shoreline and looking for any irregularity along the bank or in the water. These

are promising places to start casting. Consider points, inlets, bays, piers, docks, fallen trees, dams, riprap, spillways, dikes or any other structure. These places often attract fish because they provide them with shelter and food.

Knowing the bottom of the water is also a big help. For example, some lakes have dense vegetation along the bottom. An unknowing angler might cast non-floating bait into the middle of this thick vegetation. The fish never have a clue the bait is there and the angler goes home without any fish.

Other waters may be quite sandy or bare along the bottom and a hungry fish may snatch a wriggling worm up immediately. Some waters may have only one or two deeper spots that the fish prefer. Location is critical and knowing the land and water is beneficial. Talk to other anglers to learn the 'secrets.'

Baits, flies and lures

Whether to use baits, flies or lures depends on the situation. For example, in the mornings and evenings you may notice fish feeding on the surface. A clear bobber trailed by about four or five feet of monofilament line and a little dark fly (with a slow retrieve) can often



Many of Utah's best summer fisheries are only accessible by foot.



Utah offers many areas where bank fishing is productive.

catch these fish when worms or power bait are ineffective. A partially water-filled clear bubble can also be used to get your bait floating just above vegetation, where many fish are cruising.

Though worms, cheese, salmon eggs and power bait are usually effective, many anglers have been in a situation where only one person on the water is catching fish. Inevitably, that angler is using a fly or lure you don't have. Having a large assortment of baits, flies and lures increases your odds of catching fish. Using lures is one of the most exciting ways to fish because the strike of a fish is often greatly intensified when the fish attacks something it thinks is alive and is trying to get away. Small spinners, such as a red and white Daredevil or silver Mepps spinners are all-around good lures for your fishing vest or tackle box.



Size matters

Not only do you need the right bait, fly or lure—you need the right size, and bigger isn't always better.

I've watched anglers using a small amount of cheese or power bait on a tiny hook quickly limit out on fish while other anglers, who were using the same technique but were putting too much bait on too large of a hook (or vice versa), rarely got a bite.

Most of the time, small flies work much better than large flies.

Equipment and preparation

Make sure your equipment works properly, before heading to your fishing spot. Many anglers drive for miles to their fishing spot, only to realize they can't fish because something is missing or broken.

If your equipment is in poor shape, consider shopping for new, quality equipment. Also, buy suitable equipment for your children. Make sure they can handle the pole and reel you want to buy them, so they can catch fish, too.

Fish handling, ethics and courtesy

Fish caught with bait usually die

shortly after being released. Artificial flies and lures can extend the length of your trip by allowing you to catch and release many fish. If you're bait fishing, plan on keeping each fish (up to your limit) unless the fish is only hooked on the outer portion of its mouth.

If you plan on releasing fish, the way you handle them is very important to their survival. Once caught, keep the fish in the water, handling it as little as possible and in the correct manner.

Bring garbage bags to clean up other people's trash. It not only sets a good example for friends and family but also can be a contagious habit for other people who are watching.

When fishing, silence is golden. When someone breaks out the boom box, everyone on the lake has the misfortune of also listening to it.

And give people their space—don't gravitate next to anglers who are catching fish unless invited. On the other hand, if you're catching fish in a great spot on a river or lake, allow others an opportunity to catch fish in that spot once you've had some fun.

Know the law

Knowing the fishing regulations can actually help you catch fish.

For example, many anglers don't realize that you can legally have a second pole at about 30 different Utah waters. It requires a \$15 permit (available from DWR offices, Internet or license agents) and can be well worth the cost by allowing you to try two different techniques at the same time.

Some anglers also don't realize that the fishing law was changed several years ago to allow children under 14 years of age to fish without a fishing license.

Always have a fishing proclamation with you to avoid breaking the law (you can obtain one from license agents, DWR offices or the DWR's Web site). Once prepared, you'll enjoy a lifetime of memorable fishing trips! f

BY ANN EVANS,
AQUATIC EDUCATION SPECIALIST

A GUIDE TO UTAH angling

SOME OF MY EARLIEST memories are of fishing with my grandfather. I lived with my grandparents at Cutler Reservoir, where grandpa ran the power plant for Utah Power. Every night after work he and I would head down to the water and spend the evening fishing and forging a bond that would last a lifetime.

During those evening sessions I learned a little about fishing and a lot about confidence and self-esteem as I reeled my meager catches in. I also learned much about patience and perseverance, lessons that would carry on into other areas of my adult life. Grandpa also instilled within me a love of the outdoors. That love has carried over into a career in outdoor education.

These are just some of the lessons that fishing teaches.

Fishing also opens a door to a lifetime of outdoor fun. It's an ideal way for families and friends to spend time together and really connect without the interference of everyday life, such as television, loud music,

and the telephone. People of any age or ability can enjoy fishing. It's an activity you can enjoy with a group of people or on your own. You don't need a team to go fishing!

Some people are intimidated

when they walk into a fishing tackle store and see the vast array of equipment from which to choose. It's not as hard as it looks, however. All you need to get started is a rod and reel, a hook, a bobber, a sinker and bait. A basic rod and reel combo can be found at most sporting good stores starting as low as \$5 to \$10. You don't have to start out with the most expensive outfit—try some out and see what you like. If you don't have your own equipment, call the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) at (801) 538-4769 to learn how to check out free fishing equipment.

Memories for a lifetime.

Fun should be your number one goal. Never judge the success of a trip by the number or size of fish you catch, but by the memories you made that day. Remember, this activity is called “fishing,” not “catching.”

Fishing creates memories that will last a lifetime. Even the worst trips can evoke great memories and funny stories that are told around the campfire time and again. Make fishing a part of your family's tradition and make some memories. **f**



Fish to be released should be handled gently to prevent injury.

Utah's Lakes and streams

LEARN ALL YOU CAN about the different types of fish you'd like to catch, what they eat and where they live. The more you learn about fish behavior, the more success you'll have. For example, water temperature and time of year affects each species differently. Some species are easier to catch during specific times of the year. Each type of fish may require a slightly different approach. That is why it is important to have a variety of lures and baits.

There are many other excellent books and magazines that will give you the tips and knowledge you need. Also, don't forget to learn from more experienced anglers.

Remember, all skills take time to develop, so don't expect to take the fishing world by storm on your first trip. As you learn and improve, enjoy the sights around you and the time spent with family and friends. The experience of associating with family and friends will be more memorable than the fish you catch.

Furthermore, this map and fishing guide are just a start for you to learn about Utah's great fisheries. In many ways, the fishing in Utah is better now than it was for previous generations.

We have more variety in the species that are available, and we have more places to fish for those species. As you look over this map, you will see that the major waters in Utah are represented on these pages. However, this list is not meant to include all the waters of Utah. But it does contain all of the major waters and many of the minor ones.

Some of the waters are well known and receive a lot of fishing pressure; however, many of the



minor waters receive very little pressure and can offer excellent fishing at times. Part of the fun of fishing is exploring new waters and trying new techniques until you figure out how to catch fish on the water you are fishing.

For the sake of simplicity, the map does not show every species available in the waters shown and many of the species are lumped into one category. For example, panfish may include crappie, bluegill, white bass or perch. Trout includes many species such as rainbow, brown, cutthroat, brook or hybrids.

When fishing in waters that offer several species of fish, when one technique isn't working, try another. If the trout aren't biting, try fishing for panfish or vice versa.

The purpose of this fishing guide is to help you decide where and how to fish in Utah. As you see by the maps, the choices can be difficult because there are so many to choose from. But don't be intimidated by the number of waters in Utah. Look at it as a wonderful challenge.

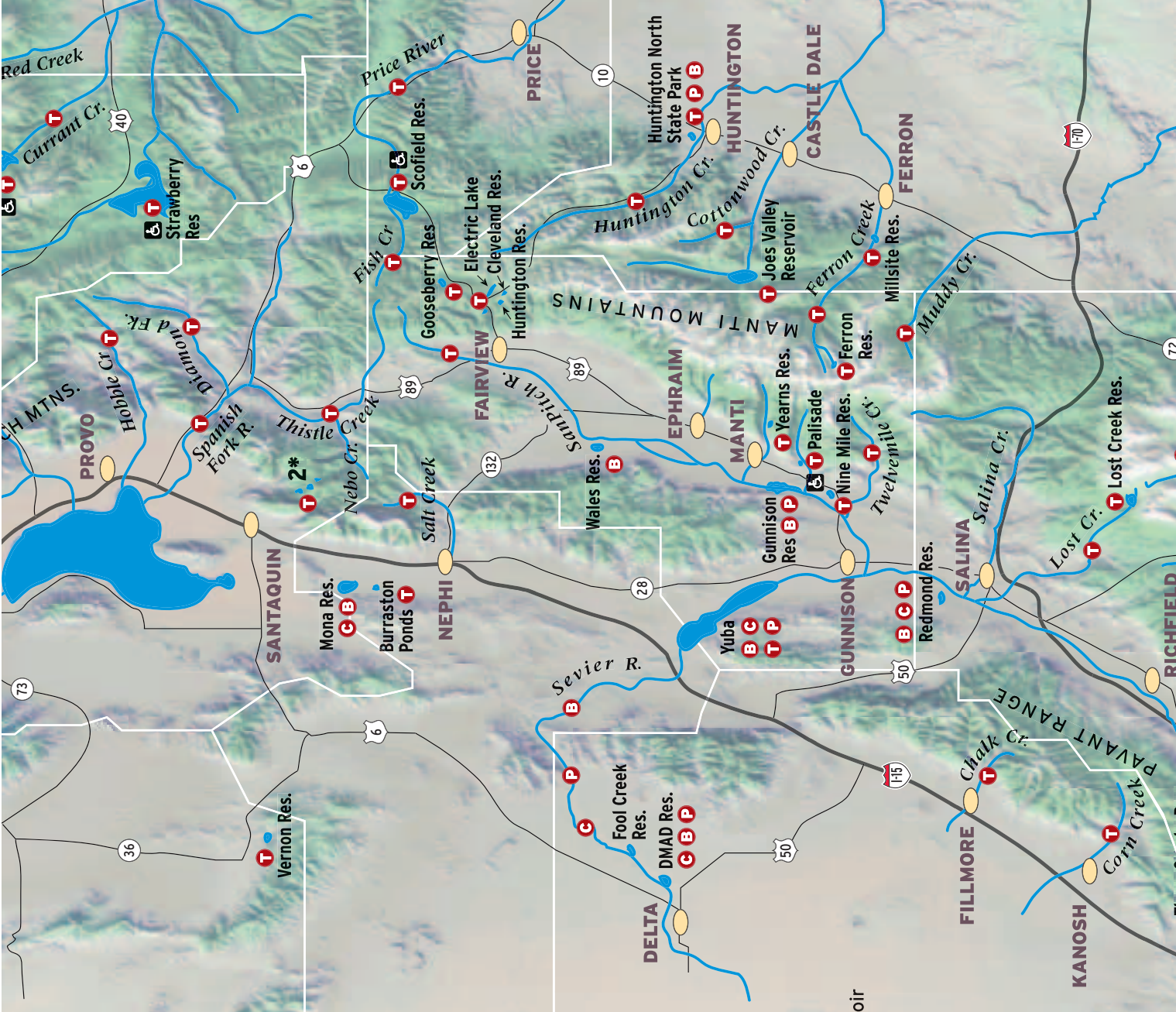
MAPS BY CORY MAYLETT

*1 – Cottonwood Canyon lakes

Blanche, Katherine, Florence, White Pine, Lillian, Mary, Red Pine, Secret

*2 – Payson Canyon lakes

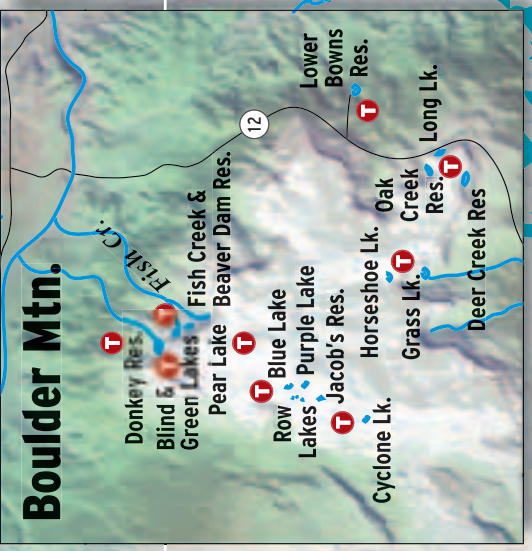
Payson Lakes, Maple Lake, McClellan Reservoir



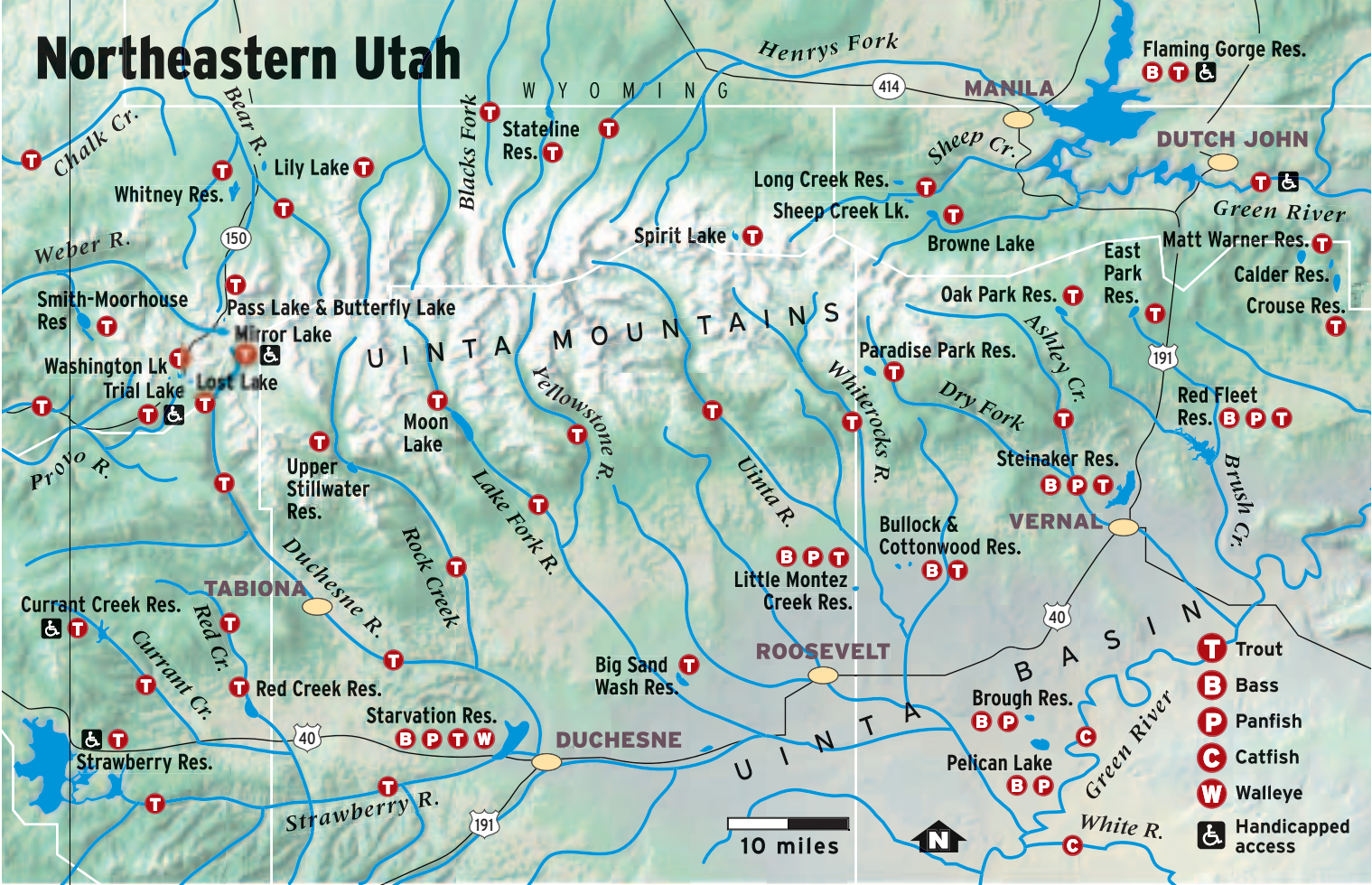


10 miles

- T** Trout
- B** Bass
- P** Panfish
- C** Catfish
- Handicapped access



Northeastern Utah



The Uinta Mountains have over 400 fishable waters. Shown above are some of the largest or most accessible.

Equipment choices

There are three basic types of reels: 1) A spin casting reel is closed-faced and has a thumb stop that you use to release the line as you cast. Spin casting reels use medium weight line. 2) A spinning reel has a bail that you open to allow the line to release as you cast. This reel works best with lighter weight line. 3) A bait-casting



Open-face reel

reel is open and you use your thumb or a brake to slow or stop the line after it's cast. This is a great reel for heavier line.

If you're a beginner, a spin-casting reel is the easiest to use and control as you learn the fine art of casting.

Terminal tackle

Bobbers float and hold the baited

hook at a certain depth. When the bobber moves, it may indicate you have a "bite." Sinkers provide weight so you can cast the bait farther and also helps hold the line taut so you can tell when you have a bite. Hooks hold the fish on the line.

Hooks come in a variety of sizes, all of which are numbered—the larger the number, the smaller the hook. The size of the hook you use depends on the size and type of fish you're after. For most general fishing, use a 6-, 8-, or 10-size hook.



Closed-face reel

Which bait to use

Bait can be anything placed on the hook that fish will accept as food. Visiting bait sections in stores can be an overwhelming experience. What to use—worms, spinners, jigs, spoons? Artificial lures take some practice and skill to use effectively, so you may want to start out with the some of these basic baits instead:

Real or artificial worms, night-crawlers and other live bait—most fish will eat worms. They can be purchased at tackle stores. Many convenience stores have them, too. They must be kept cool and moist, but not wet.



Power Bait—commercially prepared bait that attracts fish. It comes in a variety of colors and styles (cheese-like paste, etc.). It's easy to use and transports and stores well in a variety of conditions.

Salmon eggs or other prepared baits—natural bait that fish are

accustomed to. Easy to use and store.

Cheese—(Velveeta and commercial jars of cheese fish bait such as Zeke's garlic flavor or floating) are not as popular as they once were, but they still catch trout. Keep Velveeta cheese cool so it is easier to mold a piece around the hook.

Mini marshmallows (usually combined with a nightcrawler)—these are “floaters” baits that help suspend the bait above the lake bottom. They're good to use when there's a lot of vegetation on the bottom of the area you're fishing.

Carry a variety of these baits and see what works best for you in the area you're fishing. All of these real or artificial baits are inexpensive and catch fish.

Rigging for a floating rig—(good for places where there is bottom vegetation), place a pinch-on (split-shot) sinker 12 to 18 inches above the hook. Place a bobber or float one to three feet above the sinker.

For a bottom rig (good for bottom feeding fish or where there is no vegetation), use the same technique as above, except remove the float. This will allow the bait to lie on the bottom of the area you're fishing.

Tools

Carry an assortment of pliers for emergencies or repairs, scissors or clippers to cut your line with rather than using your teeth and hook removers—so you can remove the hooks from the fish you catch quickly and safely.

Location

There are fishing opportunities in communities near you (check out the DWR's “Community Fishing” booklet), or you can travel to remote places where local wildlife is your main companion. Whether you have an hour or several days to fish, there is a fishing spot in Utah for you.



Safety

Practice safety while fishing—take safety gear with you—a first aid kit, properly fitting PFDs (personal flotation devices), if fishing in a boat, sunglasses, a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Dress appropriately for the weather conditions and be careful when fishing on windy or stormy days. If a lightning storm approaches, get off the water because modern graphite fishing rods are great conductors of electricity.

Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

Fishing can be as simple or as challenging as you want. As you gain more experience, you will be ready to learn more advanced techniques.. f



BY BRENT STETTLER,
SOUTHEASTERN REGION
CONSERVATION OUTREACH MANAGER

STARTING YOUR **children** FISHING

IF YOU DON'T have any fishing experience, introducing a child to fishing can be somewhat intimidating.

There's no reason to feel that way, however. There are plenty of programs and people available to help any parent introduce their child to fishing!

For example, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and local communities have established Youth Fishing Clubs along the Wasatch Front. Call Andrew Cushing, community fisheries biologist for the DWR, at (801) 538-4774 to learn more about the club nearest you.

The DWR also has a rod and reel checkout program that lets parents learn if their child likes to fish, before they spend money to buy them their own equipment. Rods and reels can be checked out for free at any DWR office.

If you already know that your child likes to fish, you can buy them a beginner's fishing outfit for under \$20 at most department or sporting goods stores. These come complete with a rod, reel and line. If you're on a tight budget, watch for sales in the spring and early summer. Before spending

your money, get some advice from an experienced friend or neighbor or a fishing specialty shop employee. You'll probably save money in the long run by buying a more costly, superior outfit at the outset.

Rods come in a variety of lengths and vary in stiffness and flexibility. Some are better suited for fishing from

a boat, while others are designed for use on creeks. Some are heavy duty for hefty 20-pound lake trout—others are very light for small brook trout. Talk to an experienced angler or sporting goods clerk to help you decide which rod is right for you or your kids. Before choosing a specific rod, decide what kind of reel you want. Your reel choice will determine the design of the rod handle you'll use.

There are reels for fly anglers, and others for bait and spinner anglers. In general, a closed-face reel is best suited for beginners, because of its ease of operation. Those with more experience favor open-face reels because they cast farther and require less maintenance. Fly-fishing reels are for advanced anglers, who enjoy the technique of fishing as much as any other aspect of the experience.

Beginning anglers generally fare better using baits. Typical baits include worms, fish eggs, and commercial cheese baits, which come in an assortment of colors and scents. Depending on the season and availability, grasshoppers, Cicadas and other live insects are also effective.

When children think of fishing, they think of catching. The frequency of bites, the number of fish they catch and the size of fish are extremely

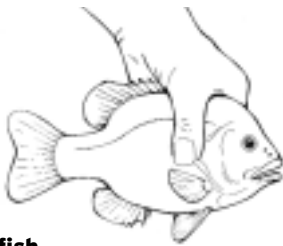


PHOTO BY TOM PETTINGILL

A lifetime of fishing enjoyment awaits these two young anglers.



Proper ways of handling various fishes



Panfish



Trout



Walleye

important to beginning anglers. To get them “hooked on fishing,” it’s important to provide beginners with a series of successful fishing trips. Kids, especially, tire quickly and get discouraged if the catching is slow. Do your best to avoid those situations.

One of the best ways to get kids hooked on fishing is to take them where panfish are biting—especially in the late spring and early summer. Panfish such as crappie, bluegills or perch can be caught in good numbers in very little time. The equipment for catching panfish is very simple: a rod and reel, small hook, bobber and a piece of a nightcrawler is about as simple as you can get. It’s not important what species of fish the kids catch—but, it’s important that they catch fish in their first couple of trips!

Here are some tips to help you find where to fish at the time you are planning on going.

Visit with fishing specialty store personnel. They talk with a lot of people and hear lots of fishing

reports. They stay in business by knowing what’s hot when.

Review the weekly fishing report, compiled by the DWR and published in a number of newspapers across the state. The weekly fishing reports are also available on the Internet by visiting the DWR’s Web site at wildlife.utah.gov.

Also, chat with U.S. Forest Service rangers, State Park rangers, and DWR conservation officers and fisheries biologists. They have great knowledge of local fishing conditions.

Having the right equipment and information will go a long way to providing your beginning angler with a positive and fun experience, something that he or she will want to repeat time and again. In a fast-paced world, fishing can offer a relaxing and healthy recreational outlet. It’s also a good parent-child bonding opportunity. Freed from the countless distractions of everyday life, meaningful conversations can be fostered and friendships nurtured. f



PHOTOS BY TOM PETTENGILL

Few experiences are more memorable or satisfactory than helping a child catch his or her first fish.



Participants line the banks of Salem Pond at the Disabled Fishing Derby held in Utah County.

BY RALYNNE TAKEDA,
COORDINATOR

OPPORTUNITIES FOR **disabled** ANGLERS

DON'T LET A PHYSICAL disability keep you from missing the joys of fishing. State agencies, federal agencies and local cities have been developing new and improved access for disabled anglers in Utah for years. The state has plenty of waters that provide good access and great fishing.

Remember, while most of the areas listed provide reasonably good access for those with mobility handicaps, it's still a good idea to use the buddy system and take someone along to assist you.

The following is a list of Utah waters accessible to those with dis-

abilities. For more detailed information, call the nearest Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' office or visit the DWR's Web site at wildlife.utah.gov

NORTHERN UTAH

Farmington Pond
Perception Park
Mirror Lake
Ogden River Parkway
South Fork, Ogden River
Logan River

CENTRAL UTAH

Jordan River Parkway
Highland Glen Park
Salem Pond

Vivan Park Pond
Utah Lake State Park
Palisade State Park
Provo River
Yuba State Park
Currant Creek Reservoir
Strawberry Reservoir
Mill Hollow
Payson Lakes
Tibble Fork Reservoir
Silver Lake (Brighton)

NORTHEASTERN UTAH

Current Creek Reservoir
Diamond Mountain Lakes
Green River (Tailrace)
Green River (Little Hole)
Flaming Gorge
Quarter Corner Lake

SOUTHEASTERN UTAH

Gigliotti Pond (Helper City)
Scofield Reservoir, Beaver Dam area, inlet to reservoir (opens the second Saturday in July)
Huntington North Reservoir
Bench's Pond
Millsite State Park
Recapture Reservoir

SOUTHERN UTAH

Lake Powell - Wahweap
Little Reservoir
Beaver River

UTAH'S "BEST" FISHING waters

Every one wants to know where the fishing is "hot" right now. The hot spots change weekly, if not daily. The following waters represent some of the most consistent fishing opportunities in Utah just about any time of the year. If you don't know where to go, try one of these best places first.

Logan River

Location/facilities

The River parallels U.S. Highway 89 from Logan to the Franklin Basin near the Idaho border. There is nearly 40 miles of river that has great fishing.

Types of fish

Bonneville cutthroat trout, brown

trout, mountain whitefish, brook trout, rainbow trout

Where to fish

For those who like a little more solitude, the upper stretches near Beaver Mountain and Franklin Basin provide a little elbow and casting room. Fishing near the campgrounds is very popular and attracts lots of anglers especially on weekends.



Don't discount the part of the river that flows through town. There are lots of shady "hides" that hold nice brown trout. If you think the river is too close to town to be any good fishing, just try throwing a grasshopper in the river in August and watch the water roil with a hungry trout.

When to fish

Because of the variety of trout in the river, fishing opportunities exist year-round. Before the spring runoff hits, usually sometime in April, the crystal clear and cold waters of the Logan River provide a sure cure for cabin fever for late winter/early spring fishing. When the waters have cleared up after runoff, fishing again improves, especially for fly-fishing. The stretch of river from the Red Banks through Franklin Basin is closed to protect spawning cutthroat trout until the second Saturday in July.

Pineview Reservoir

Location/facilities

15 miles east of Ogden Utah on State Road 39

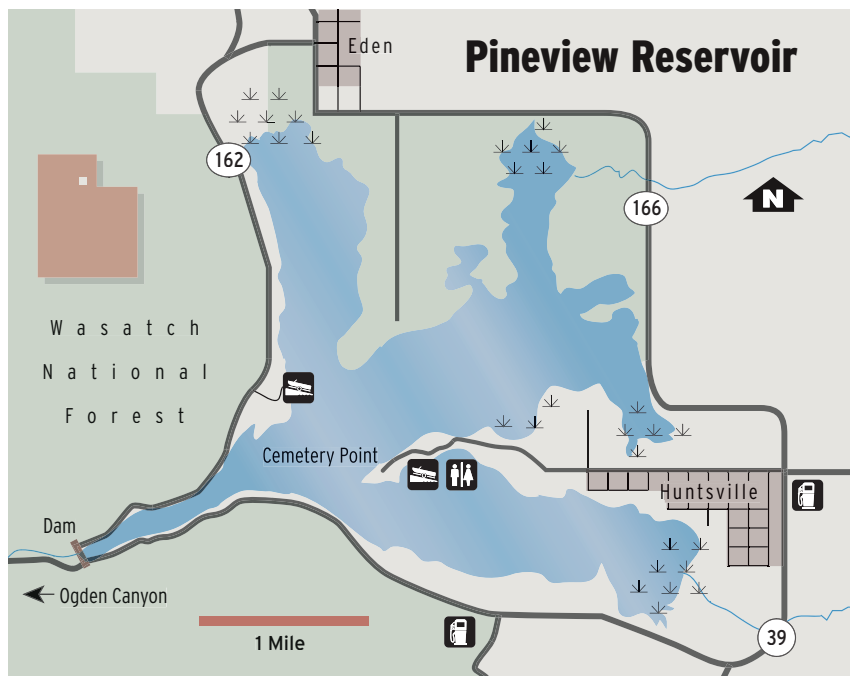
Types of fish

Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, black crappie, bluegill, tiger muskie, black bullhead



PHOTO BY TOM PETTINGILL

Logan River – beautiful mountain scenery and great fishing.



Where to fish

Pineview has a great variety of habitats: gravel beds for spawning crappie; rocky shoreline for smallmouth bass; marshy areas and flooded willows that provide protection for largemouth bass and bluegills as well as the perfect "ambush" for the stealthy tiger muskie. As the lake level recedes in the hot summer months, mud bars in the north arm hold good numbers of black bullheads. Smallmouth bass have become more numerous in recent years and have provided lots of success, especially in the "narrows" in the west part of the reservoir.

When to fish

Spring and summer are great times to fish for crappie as the water gets warmer. The hot summer months provide excellent fishing for black bullheads that receive very little fishing pressure and are considered an under-utilized sport fish at Pineview. Tiger muskie, referred to as a "fish of a thousand casts" start to increase their activity in spring, remain active through the summer and have a "last hoorah" feeding binge in the fall.

How to fish

Pineview is a fishery that relies heavily on keeping a good number of predator fish to keep panfish like bluegill, yellow perch and crappie from over-populating. This is important for anglers to keep in mind because there are rules that require that certain sizes of fish be released. Adhering to these rules will help keep the balance between predators and prey. Because of the predators, most of the fishing is done with lures with the exception of black bullheads and yellow perch that offer good fishing with baits such as night-crawlers, fished off the bottom.

Deer Creek Reservoir

Location/facilities

Deer Creek Reservoir lies in the southwest corner of beautiful Heber Valley. The reservoir consistently provides some of Utah's finest year-round fishing. Warm water and predictable canyon winds also make Deer Creek extremely popular for boating, wind surfing, sunbathing, swimming and sail-boating. The reservoir is about 40 minutes from

Salt Lake City and merely 15 minutes from Provo.

From the Provo/Orem area, exit I-15 on the Orem 8th North exit to US-189. Drive east through Provo Canyon until you reach the park entrance. From Heber City, take US-189 and drive south towards Provo Canyon to the park entrance.

NOTE: There are three park areas: Island Beach, Rainbow Bay and Main Park. Facilities include two concrete boat launching ramps, a 75-unit campground with modern rest rooms and showers, two group-use areas, sewage disposal and fish cleaning stations and a paved parking area. A concessionaire provides a restaurant, boat rentals, gasoline and sundries. The State Park phone number is (435) 654-0171

Types of fish

Rainbow, cutthroat and brown trout, smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleye, and yellow perch.

Where to fish

Several pull-offs and State Park areas allow good shoreline access



along the eastern half of the reservoir. Bass are often caught near rocky points and submerged structure. Popular walleye locations are along the north and west sides of the reservoir.

How to fish

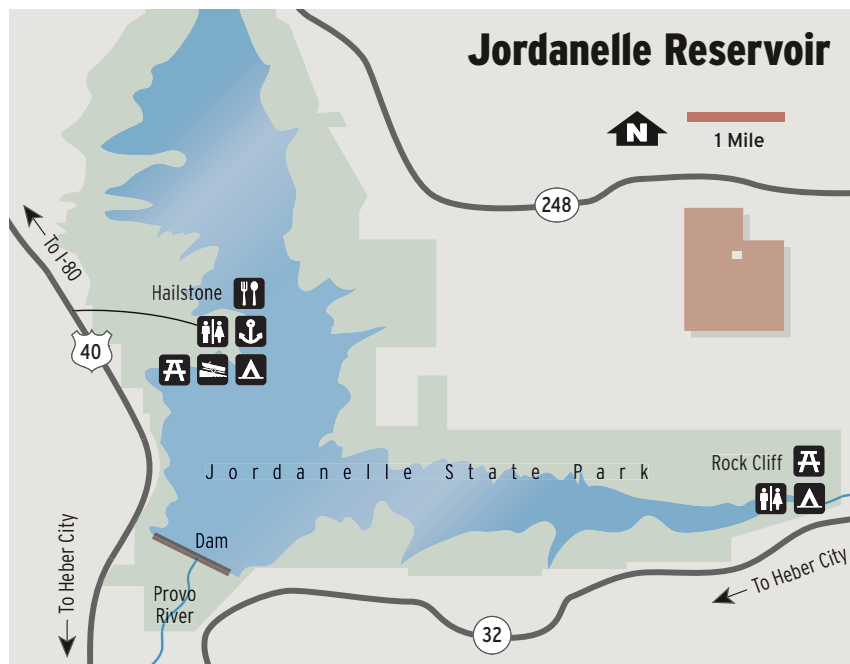
Trolling slowly with minnow imitating lures or bottom bouncers is effective for walleye. Trolling a pop gear and worm combination in the early morning hours is a popular method for trout. Traditional baits and lures work from shoreline. Winds usually pick up around 10 a.m. but usually they're not too strong and are welcomed by most anglers during the warm summer months. Bass prefer standard crank baits, jigs, and other action-type lures.

Jordanelle Reservoir

Location/facilities

Hailstone—Located on the west shore of the reservoir, off U.S. Highway 40 at Exit 8, this area offers boating, water sports, year-round fishing, hiking, biking, a camp service center and a children's playground. Facilities include three camping areas, modern rest rooms, showers, utility hookups, fish cleaning and sewage disposal stations, a visitor center, sandy beaches, three group-use pavilions, 41 day-use cabanas, two mini-laundromats, a children's play area, two boat ramps (one ramp for personal watercraft), an 80-slip marina with utility hookups, fuel dispensing, a marina store, a restaurant, miles of non-motorized trails and plenty of shoreline access for fishing. Hailstone phone: (435) 649-9540

Rock Cliff—Located on the Provo River two miles west of Francis on State Route 32, this area offers interpretive trails, walk-in camping, fishing, education programs and nature study. Facilities include a nature center, boardwalks, 50 walk-in camping sites, a group-use area, modern rest rooms, showers and a



small boat access ramp. Rock Cliff phone: (435) 783-3030

Types of fish

Jordanelle Reservoir provides excellent fishing for rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and smallmouth bass. A population of brown trout, produced in the Provo River, is

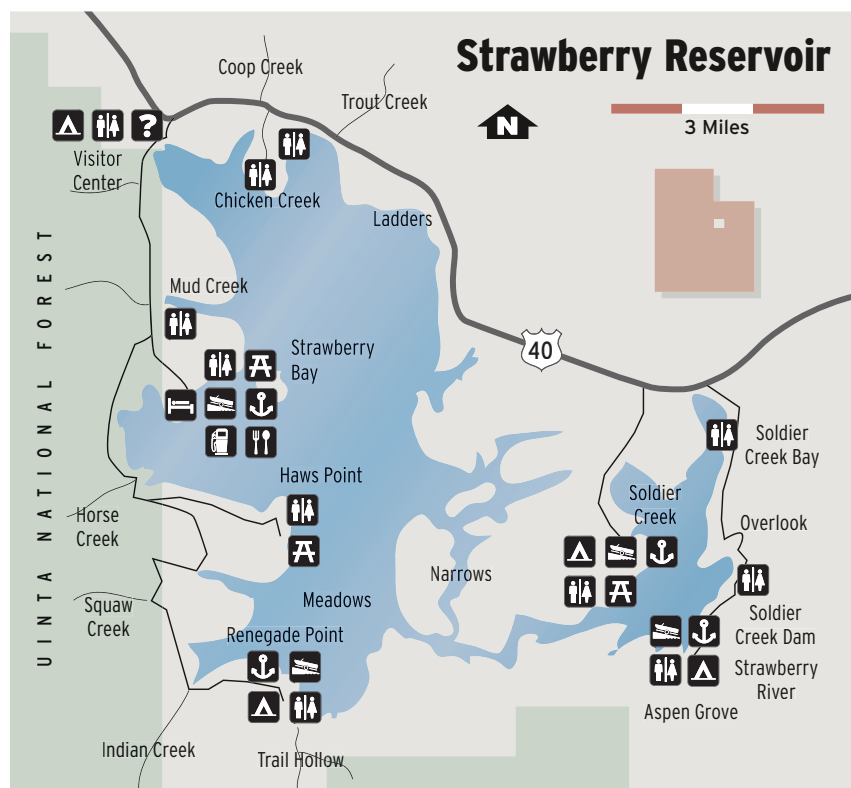
expanding in the reservoir. This mix of species provides an excellent sport fishery.

Where to fish

Shoreline access is mostly available only at the two State Park areas because of the steep terrain in other areas and the distance of the reser-



Jordanelle Reservoir offers excellent fishing and is ideal for small boats.



voir from the highway. One area on the north end of the reservoir, off of Hwy 248, allows some access but expect a lengthy walk to the water.

How to fish

Once on the shoreline, look for submerged trees or rocks or fish on sloping rocky points for numerous smallmouth bass. Any bay seems to be a good spot for trolling or fly-fishing for trout. Perch may be caught on small lures and traditional live bait such as nightcrawlers fished under a bobber.

Strawberry Reservoir

Location/facilities

Strawberry Reservoir is Utah's most popular fishery and one of the most popular trout fishing waters in the western United States. Located 23 miles southeast of Heber City along U.S. Highway 40, main access areas include Strawberry Marina, Soldier Creek, Chicken Creek West, Chicken Creek East, Renegade Point, Haws

Point, Aspen Grove and several other access areas (see map). Facilities also include four campgrounds, three boat ramps, a marina (phone 435 548-2261), two lodges with restaurants — (Daniel's Summit Lodge, 1-800-519-9969) or Strawberry Bay Lodge (435 548-2500), numerous hiking, biking and ATV trails, and other recreational opportunities. A great source for more information is the U.S. Forest Service Strawberry Reservoir Visitors Center (435 548-2321) which is located just off Highway 40 as you approach the reservoir from Heber. The visitor center is adjacent to the DWR's fish trap and egg-taking facility. The center includes an interpretive boardwalk that allows you to view many wildlife species, including thousands of congregated, spawning cutthroat trout (late May – early June) and bright red kokanee Salmon (late August to early October).

Types of fish

Cutthroat and rainbow trout,

kokanee salmon and a large population of crayfish.

Where to fish

Being surrounded by public U.S. Forest Service land provides great access to shorelines. Trout can be caught from most shoreline areas by using traditional baits, flies and lures. Kokanee salmon prefer the deeper water (try jigging or trolling with downriggers in the Narrows or other deep water areas). One trick is to use a "rubber snubber" next to your hook to help avoid losing kokanee salmon, which have soft mouths. There isn't much water skiing traffic on the reservoir.

How to fish

Strawberry is a favorite location for float tubers. A dark green, brown or black wooly bugger or leech pattern can be an effective pattern from a tube or slow moving boat. Another popular method is casting tube jigs or trolling with pop-gear or minnow-imitating lure. The average size trout caught is about 15 to 18 inches.

Note: New regulations require anglers to release all cutthroat trout between 15 and 22 inches. (Limit of four trout or kokanee salmon in the aggregate with no more than two cutthroats under 15 inches and no more than one cutthroat over 22 inches.)

There is no limit on crayfish, but they must be killed before leaving the reservoir. Rainbow trout in the reservoir are sterile, which focuses their attention on eating. These rainbows are often big and are well known for the strong fight they give anglers.

Pelican Lake

Location

From U.S. Hwy 40, midway between Roosevelt and Vernal, turn south on Hwy 88. Go south about 8 miles and you'll see Pelican from the top of the hill. Turn left (east) at the bottom of the hill to fish from the road or turn right (west) to reach the boat ramps and campground.

Types of fish

Largemouth bass, bluegill, bull-head catfish

When to fish

The lake offers fast fishing for bass and bluegill in the spring and early summer and continues to produce well throughout the summer. Fishing is slower in the fall, then good fishing happens again at ice-up for a month or two. Fishing slows as the winter progresses.

Where to fish

This lake is easily accessible by boat. Shore anglers may be hindered by cattails and bull rushes, but there is some reasonably good access during high water along the highway on the east side, and at a few spots near the boat ramps and campground to the west. An excellent place to use small craft such as float tubes—just be aware of frequent strong winds and bass boats.

How to fish

This is an excellent place for kids, as the lake's bluegill will take almost anything if the hook is small. Small plastic jigs, lures and flies work well. Floating baits and baits suspended two or three feet below a bobber are also effective. Bass prefer similar prey but in a larger presentation. Try

jigs, plastic worms and lures that imitate fish, crayfish, frogs or large insects. Pelican is a shallow lake, so adjust your lure weights and fishing style accordingly.

Steinaker & Red Fleet Reservoirs

Types of fish

Rainbow trout, brown trout, largemouth bass and bluegill

Location

Steinaker and Red Fleet are roughly 6 and 12 miles north of Vernal on Hwy-191 respectively.

When to fish

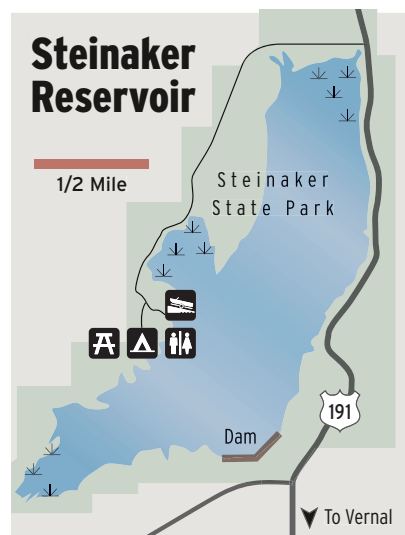
Good to excellent fishing for trout in the spring and early summer and then fair to good as they move into deeper waters during hotter weather. Fishing picks up again in fall and winter. Fast action for bass and bluegill in the spring and early summer. Good fishing for bass and bluegill during the hotter weather of mid and late summer.

Where to fish

For trout, concentrate on rocky points below the parking lots off Hwy-191 and towards the dam on Steinaker. At Red Fleet, look for rocky points and through the canyon. Bass prefer submerged vegetation and big rocks. For bluegill, fish the openings in the submerged vegetation in spring and in deeper waters as summer progresses.

How to fish

For trout, try worms and floating baits at any level during cool weather and floating your bait off the bottom in summer. Spoons, spinners and other lures, in bright colors or fish/crayfish imitations, also work well. Bluegill will take almost any small lure, bait or fly. Bass like similar prey in larger presentations. Plastic critters, especially in crayfish colors on weighted jig hooks, are extremely effective as are "buzz bombs" and fish imitations.



Current Creek Reservoir

Types of fish

Cutthroat trout

Location

Turn north from Hwy 40 where Current Creek crosses the road (about five miles west of Fruitland). This dirt road follows the creek upstream roughly 15–16 miles to the dam. To reach the campground, continue following the road around the reservoir.

When to fish

Good fishing year-round

Where to fish

The most accessible areas for shore anglers are the dam and from a couple of parking areas built on

Pelican Lake

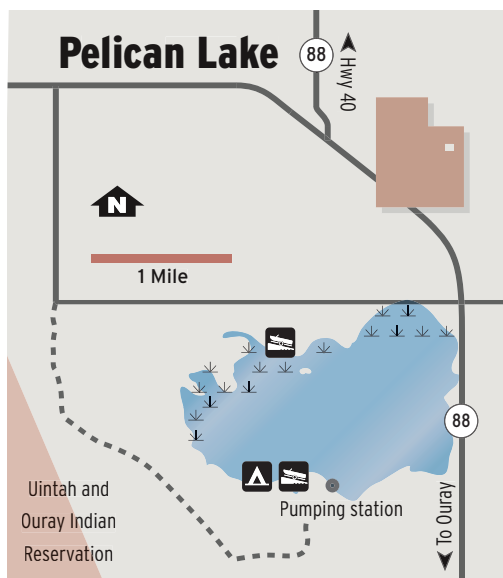




PHOTO BY BRENT STETTLER

Scofield Reservoir – a popular fishing destination for Wasatch Front residents.

the west side. A boat ramp is also located on the west side, near the campground.

How to fish

Trout baits and brightly colored lures are good bets for mountain waters such as Currant Creek, one of 400 fishable waters in the Uinta Mountains. During cooler weather fish can be found from the surface to the bottom. Try suspending your worms or floating baits from a bobber or floating it a foot or two off the bottom. Use small to medium-sized spoons, spinners, flatfish, rapalas and similar lures.

Scofield Reservoir

Location

From U.S. Highway 6 (near Soldier Summit), turn west onto State Road 96. Drive about nine miles, in a southwesterly direction, to Scofield Reservoir.

Types of fish

Rainbow and cutthroat trout

When to fish

Best fishing occurs immediately after ice off, in the late fall, and just after the reservoir freezes.

How to fish

Trolling is effective in early summer, until the algal bloom clogs your tackle. Still fishing from a boat near the islands is good until the reservoir freezes. Worms and PowerBait are good from spring through fall. Ice anglers have best luck with an attractant over a jig, tipped with a meal worm, nightcrawler, or wax worm. As the ice recedes in early spring, fish from shore or a boat at the edge of the ice sheet.

Electric Lake

Location

Drive State Road 31 (over the Wasatch Plateau) from either Fairview or Huntington. Electric Lake is situated along this road, at the top of Huntington Canyon.

Types of fish

Yellowstone cutthroat trout

When to fish

Fishing can be good year-round. A snow machine or snowshoes are helpful for accessing the lake in wintertime. However, fishing in the summer offers an escape from the high temperatures in the valleys below.



How to fish

Tackle at Electric Lake was formerly restricted to artificial flies and lures. That restriction is now lifted. Baits are now lawful and have been very effective in catching fish; worms and nightcrawlers work especially well.





Red Fleet's reputation for consistent fishing for rainbows, largemouth bass and bluegills is growing.



Joes Valley Reservoir

Location

From Orangeville, drive State Road 29 in a northwesterly direction for about ten miles. From Ephraim, drive east on the Ephraim Canyon Road over the top of the Wasatch Plateau (graded, dirt road) and part way down the other side.

Types of fish

Splake (brook trout/lake trout hybrid)

When to fish

The best splake fishing occurs in late fall, just before the closure to protect spawning fish. Splake can also be readily caught in the early spring, as ice comes off the reservoir. Ice fishing in early winter can be good with lures, jigs, and ice flies, tipped with sucker meat. During the summer months, trolling or still-

fishing from a boat is necessary to catch the splake which occupy the cold, deep water.

Pine Valley Reservoir

Location

Pine Valley Reservoir is in the Dixie National Forest just outside the town of Pine Valley. From St. George, take Hwy 18 north to Central. Then turn east to Pine Valley. From there, continue on the main road that leads to the U.S. Forest Service campground. You'll see the reservoir on the south side of the road, about two miles from the center of town and about one mile before you get to the campground.

Types of fish

This beautiful little reservoir is stocked with catchable-sized rainbow trout and supports a wild population of brook trout.

Joes Valley Reservoir



PHOTO BY LYNN CHAMBERLAIN

Otter Creek is a fertile lake that produces big trout.

When to fish

Access to the lake is best from May through October. Fishing tends to be best in the early morning and evening but can be good all day long. This is a great place to take your family. The campground is in a large stand of pine trees and is cool even in the summer months.

Pine Valley Reservoir is a small stabilized lake maintained especially for fishing. Boats and float tubes are not allowed, but fishing from the shore is available around the entire lake and an access fishing ramp is located on the north shore. Try fishing with bait on the bottom or suspended from a bobber. Also, try a fly and bubble at dusk and lures early in the morning.

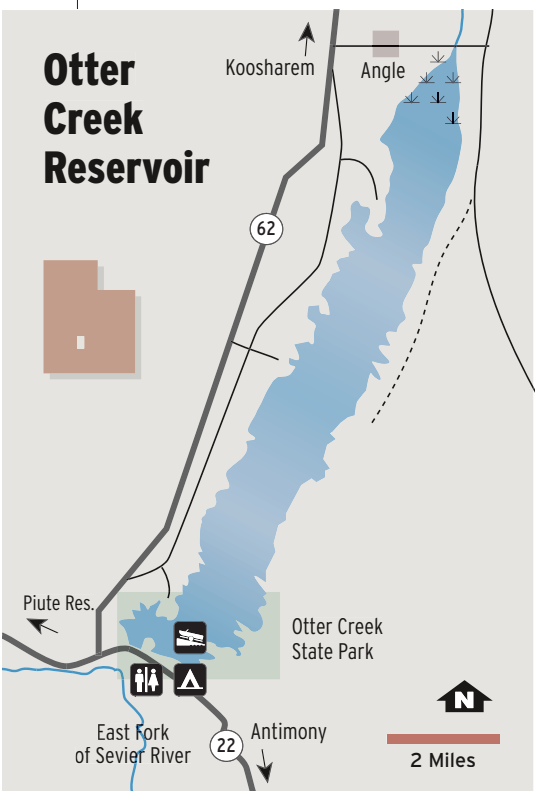
When to fish

Otter Creek is a large reservoir that has good access and fishing year round. It's also a popular ice fishing location in the winter. It's best fished from a boat but can also be fished from shore. Fishing access is best from the State Park on the south or BLM property on the west shore. Float tubes are becoming more popular on this water. Otter Creek is primarily populated with rainbow trout and a few wild cutthroats. The stream north of the lake, to the Angle diversion, is closed Jan. 1 through the second Saturday in July to allow cutthroat trout to spawn undisturbed.

Where to fish

Bait fishing from shore or an anchored boat can be very effective. Try worms or floating baits at any level during the spring and fall and near the bottom during the summer. Trolling from boats can be very effective, especially at dusk. Also, try fly fishing from a float tube.

Otter Creek Reservoir



Otter Creek Reservoir

Location

Otter Creek Reservoir is in central Utah at the junction of Hwy 62 and 22. Follow Hwy 89 to about 2 miles south of the town of Junction. Turn east on Hwy 62 and travel about 10 miles to the junction with Hwy 22. At this point you'll see the reservoir. Just east of the junction you'll see the entrance to the campground and boat launching facilities that are managed by Utah State Parks and Recreation.

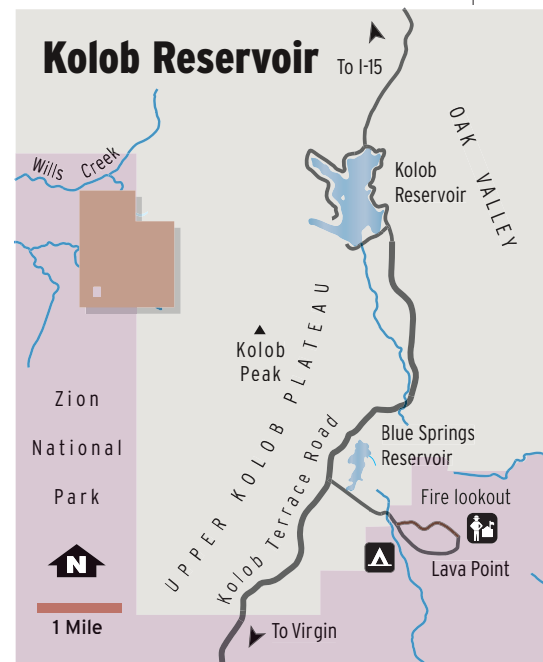
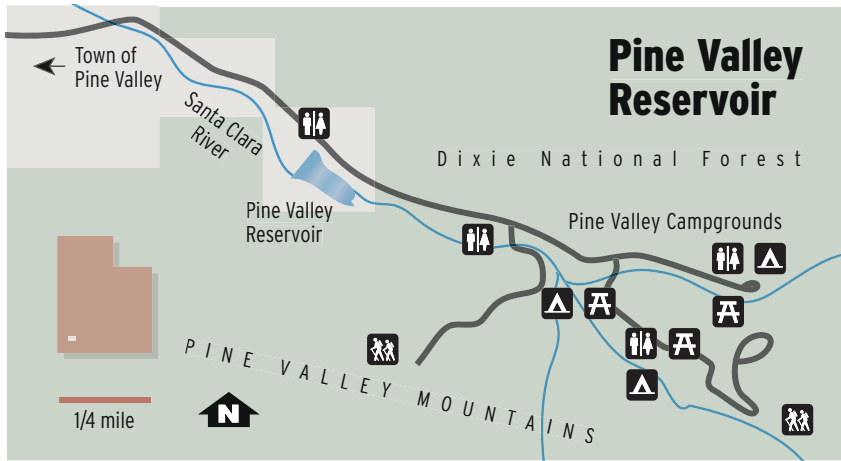
Types of fish

Rainbow and cutthroat trout

Kolob Reservoir

Location

Kolob Reservoir is just outside of Zion National Park, 21 miles north of the town of Virgin. Take Hwy 9 from LaVerkin, like you're going to Zion National Park. When you reach Virgin, turn north in the middle of town. You'll wind in and out of the



park, for 21 miles on a paved road, before arriving at Kolob Reservoir. There are no camping or restroom facilities at the lake, so be prepared to carry out everything you bring in.

Types of fish

Kolob is primarily a self-sustaining, wild cutthroat trout fishery that's supplemented by rainbows.

When to fish

The stream to the north of the reservoir is closed from Jan. 1 to the second Saturday in July to allow cut-

throats to spawn undisturbed. The reservoir is maintained as a trophy fishery and only artificial flies and lures are allowed. Only one fish may be taken and it must be 22 inches or longer. All other fish must be released back into the lake.

Vehicle access is available in the spring, summer and fall, usually late May through October. Snowmobiles are generally required in the winter and ice fishing can be good at times. The entire shoreline is open to fishing and boats are allowed. Float tubes are extremely popular. Fly anglers

find the best results using sinking flies and line during the day and floating flies in the evening. A fly and a bubble works very well too. Fill the bubble full of water and allow it to sink before retrieving it slowly.

The property around the lake belongs to Washington County. Please keep it clean. [f](#)



PHOTO BY LYNN CHAMBERLAIN

Near Zion National Park, Kolob Reservoir is gaining a reputation as a top trophy trout lake.



BY JO PROCTOR,
DWR COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS

Good news

FOR DEDICATED HUNTERS

Good news for dedicated hunters came out of the Utah Wildlife Board meeting in April. In 2004, you'll continue to receive a guaranteed permit for the region of your choice and there will not be a limit on the number of permits for each region that can be allotted to dedicated hunters before the big game draw.

And that's not all. The Utah Wildlife Board also directed the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to look at changing the program to better serve military personnel.

The program's 10,000-person cap will also remain.

"Board members gave a nod of patriotic support to our troops," Larry Dalton, Conservation Outreach Section chief for the DWR, said about the changes board members want to see made. Dalton presented the DWR's Dedicated Hunter recommendations at the board meeting. "We'll be recommending adjustments to the dedicated hunter rule to benefit those serving in the military," he said.

One of the adjustments the DWR will look at pertains to military personnel who serve outside the state

for at least one year. The current rule says that a participant's RAC meeting and wildlife conservation project requirements can be waived if they provide the DWR a copy of their orders. The down side is that they're not allowed to obtain a deer hunting permit through the Dedicated Hunter program for that year, or a general season buck deer permit.

Board members directed the DWR

to look at revising the rule, so military personnel could still obtain a hunting permit. This would allow military personnel a chance to hunt if they could make it back to Utah for a few days during the hunting season.

The DWR will also look at the possibility of allowing military personnel to complete their wildlife conservation project in the area of the country where they're serving. If they can't complete a conservation project because they're serving in a foreign country, the requirement could be waived and they could still obtain a hunting permit.

You can comment on the revised rule at the RAC meetings in May.

Certificate of Registration

This fall, as you're gathering your supplies and equipment to go hunting, remember to carry your Certificate of Registration (COR) with your license. In the past, many dedicated hunters have not carried their COR with them while hunting. Per statute, 23-19-5, dedicated hunters are required to carry their COR with them while hunting in the field. If you've lost your COR, it can be replaced at any DWR office.

Good luck with your conservation projects and have a safe and happy summer! f



TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Information hotline: 1 (801) 596-8660

Toll-free info. hotline: 1 (877) 592-5169

National fishing hotline: 1 (800) 275-3474

Utah bird line: 1 (801) 538-4730

Cougar harvest objective hotline: 1 (888) 668-5466

Poaching hotline: 1 (800) 662-DEER

Web site address: www.wildlife.utah.gov



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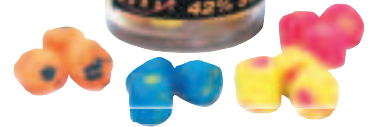


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